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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AUSTRIAN DECISION ON SCHOENAU

1. SITUATION AFTER GOA'S DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOENAU CAMP CONTINUES TO HOLD ATTENTION OF AUSTRIAN PRESS. OF SIX VIENNA PAPERS TODAY, FOUR PLAYED UP SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S REJECTION OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S PROPOSAL TO PLACE TRANSIT CENTER UNDER UN JURISDICTION. MASS-CIRCULATION KURIER CARRIED BANNERLINE, "AUSTRIAN CONSULATE IN LOS ANGELES ATTACKED". PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATEMENT IS COVERED BY ALL VIENNA PAPERS EXCEPT COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME.

2. WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARLENE MANTHEY MAINTAINED IN DIE PRESSE THAT PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION IS "HARD TO UNDERSTAND" BECAUSE KREISKY HAD ALREADY MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD NOT GO BACK ON HIS PROMISE TO DISBAND THE SCHOENAU CAMP.

3. KURIER FRONTPAGES KREISKY'S STATEMENT WHEN HE RECEIVED A GROUP OF JEWISH DEMONSTRATORS YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD SOONER RESIGN THAN REVERSE HIS DECISION. THIS STATE-UNCLASSIFIED

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MENT WAS ALSO COVERED BY AUSTRIAN TV LAST NIGHT WHICH FURTHERMORE NOTED RESULT OF AN OPINION POLL BY A GERMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN AUSTRIA: 79 PER-CENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED APPROVED OF KREISKY'S DECISION, 0 PERCENT ARE

AGAINST, AND 12 PERCENT NON-COMMITTAL.

4. KRONEN-ZEITUNG QUOTED FEDERAL CHANCELLERY SOURCE AS CLAIMING THAT YESTERDAY'S VISIT OF ISMAIL FAHMI, EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF TOURISM AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, HAS EMBARRASSED KREISKY.

5. WITH EXCEPTION OF WIENER ZEITUNG, ALL VIENNA PAPERS EDITORIALIZED AGAIN. THE SOCIALIST PARTY ORGAN, ARBEITER-ZEITUNG, COMMENTED ON SECRETARY WALDHEIM'S REJECTION OF KREISKY'S PROPOSAL: "(THE UNITED NATIONS) OBVIOUSLY SHUNS AWAY FROM THE TROUBLE WHICH SUCH A STEP WOULD CAUSE IN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH REFUSES TO ADMIT THAT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ITS CITIZENS ARE EMIGRATING, THE ARABS WHICH WOULD SEE IN THIS A STRENGTHENING OF ISRAEL, AND ISRAEL WHICH STICKS TO ITS ATTITUDE (THAT AUSTRIA MUST REMAIN IN CHARGE OF THE SCHOENAU CAMP) ... WHAT SURPRISES US, HOWEVER, IS FACT THAT ISRAEL HAD MADE CLEAR ALREADY BEFORE WALDHEIM'S REJECTION OF PROPOSAL THAT GOI WOULD OPPOSE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SCHOENAU.. SURPRISED, WE ALSO TAKE NOTE OF JERUSALEM'S WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO AN AIRLIFT FROM THE SOVIET UNION, BUT OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF AN AIRLIFT FROM AUSTRIA ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD SPEED UP THE TRANSIT AND REDUCE THE SECURITY RISK.. WORLD OPINION ALSO OUGHT TO CONSIDER THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE EGYPTIAN VISITOR (MINISTER OF TOURISM ISMAIL FAHMI) AFTER HIS TALK WITH KRESIDKY ON WEDNESDAY: HIS COUNTRY FULLY UNDERSTANDS AUSTRIA'S HUMANITARIAN TASKS AND DOES NOT FEEL "DISTURBED" BY THEM. THIS IS A NEW TONE FROM AN ARAB MOUTH."

6. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE EDITORIALIZED SUSPICION THAT KREISKY ANTICIPATED UNITED NATIONS REJECTION OF HIS PROPOSAL, BUT MADE IT NEVERTHELESS IN ORDER TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE AUSTRIAN VOTERS AND POSE AS A SUPER-PATRIOT: "I HAVE DONE MY BEST," HE (KRESIDKY) UNCLASSIFIED

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CAN SAY NO. " I WAS WILLING TO LET THE UN INTERVENE ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD NOT HAVE REDUCED THE SECURITY RISK FOR AUSTRIA.. BUT NOT EVEN GREAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE UNITED NATIONS, IS WILLING TO HELP US' HOW, THEN, CAN SMALL, POOR, DEFENSELESS AUSTRIA ALONE

LIVE UP TO THIS TASK? HAS NOT EVEN PRESENT NIXON SHOWN AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS (AUSTRIA'S DIFFICULT POSITION)?"

7. MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID KRONEN-ZEITUNG EDITORIALIZED ON MOSCOW'S HUSHING UP WHOLE AFFAIR: "CONTRARY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE SOVIET PAPERS

HAVE IGNORED SCHOENAU AFFAIR ALMOST COMPLETELY, AS IF IT WERE JUST A FEAST OF THE FIRE BRIGADE. VERY THOUGHT THAT SOVIET CITIZENS WANT TO LEAVE USSR VOLUNTARILY HURTS SELF-ESTEEM OF COMMUNIST REGIME.. HOWEVER, SOVIETS ARE ALSO UNDER ARAB PRESSURE... CONSIDERING ALL THESE FACTORS, SILENCE IS BEST OFFICIAL POLICY FOR THE SOVIETS."

8. IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL, KRONEN-ZEITUNG CALLED EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF TOURISM ISMAIL FAHMI "AN UNDERSIRABLE VISITOR," THE MORE SO SINCE HE DID NOT COME TO THANK THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING SAVED THE LIVES OF THE FOUR HOSTAGES, BUT FOR NO LONGER GRANTING CERTAIN ALLEVIATIONS TO JEWISH MIGRANTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. ALSO IN KRONEN-ZEITUNG, COLUMNIST "STABERL" (RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER) CENSURED UNITED NATIONS FOR ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT TASKS WHICH IT, IN HIS OPINION, OUGHT TO PERFORM.

9. COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME ONCE MORE PLEADED FOR DISBANDMENT OF SCHOENAU CAMP: "WE DEMAND QUITE CLEARLY: STOP ALL THIS DIPLOMATIC TALK' SCHOENAU CASTLE MUST BE CLOSED DOWN IMMEDIATELY'... (THIS IS) IN INTEREST OF AUSTRIA AND AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY."

10. PEOPLE'S PARTY VOLKSBLATT ON PROPOSAL TO PUT SCHOENAU UNDER THE PROTECTORATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS: "KREISKY HAS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED HIS UNDENIABLE KNACK FOR DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM ONE PROBLEM BY CREATING ANOTHER ONE."
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11. INDEPENDENT SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN EDITORIALY CENSURED DEFENSE MINISTER KARL LUETGENDORF FOR ASSERTING THAT ALL FOREIGN PAPERS CRITICIZING AUSTRIA ARE "IN JEWISH HANDS." HOWEVER, PAPER ADDED: "YOUNG ISRAELIS, WHO DID NOT WITNESS MASS MURDERS IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS NOR HAVE EVER BEEN DONE ANY HARM BY AUSTRIA, NOW DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE 'NAZI STATE.' YOUTHFUL JEWS IN UNITED STATES ACT SAME WAY...THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY FEW THOUSAND CRIMINALS IN THE PAST SERVE AS A BASIS FOR PASSING QUICK JUDGEMENT ON A WHOLE NATION TODAY THIS IS AS DISGRACEFUL AS ANTI-SEMITISM OF ANY KIND... DO BOYCOTT THREATS AGAINST AUSTRIAN PRODUCTS OR SWASTIKAS DAUBED ON AUSTRIAN CONSULATES DO ANY GOOD?"

12. GRAZ PEOPLE'S PARTY DECLARED THAT KREISKY IS RIDING WAVE OF EXENOPHOBIA AND CONTRASTED AUSTRIA'S PRESENT CONDUCT WITH "THE COURAGEOUS AND SYMPATHIZING ATTITUDE DURING HUNGARIAN CRISIS OF 1956." THE PAPER ADDED: "TWO SMALL-TIME GANGSTERS TERRORIZED THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. FACING THEM, (THE KRESISKY GOVERNMENT) PUT UP WITH WHAT IT NOW PROUDLY REJECTS WHEN IT IS EXPRESSED AS CRITICISM ABROAD: 'YOU CANNOT TALK TO US THIS WAY'"

13. ANOTHER GRAZ DAILY, CATHOLIC KLEINE ZEITUNG, CHARGED:

"AUSTRIA POLICY IN LAST FEW YEARS FAILED MOST SERIOUSLY
IN FIELD OF SECURITY, AND IN NATIONAL DEFENSE IN
PARTICULAR. NO HELP FROM ABROAD IN EMERGENCY CAN
BE EXPECTED BY A COUNTRY WHICH CANNOT PROVE CREDIBLY
THAT IT IS WILLING TO DEFEND ITSELF AND WHICH DOES
NOT EVEN HAVE A MILITIA COMPOSED OF CIVILIANS. IF
OUR BILL OF HEALTH WERE CLEAN IN THIS RESPECT
AND IN LINE WITH THE NEUTRALITY ACT, OUR GOVERNMENT
PERHAPS COULD HAVE MORE EASILY AFFORDED CAVING IN TO
THE ARAB TERRORISTS. AS MATTERS STAND, HOWEVER, ALL
THIS SUITED EXACTLY THE IMAGE WHICH HAS EXISTED OF
US ABROAD FOR QUITE SOME YEARS: AUSTRIA IS A COUNTRY
SUSCEPTIBLE TO ANY EXTORTION." MOWINCKEL

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